

MINUTES – HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010 MEETING  
ROGER “PIP” MOYER RECREATION CENTER

PRESENT:

M. Keller, Chairman   P. Schenck   H. Leitch   J. Spencer   R. Katchmar  
M. Scott   I. M. Sims   E. Knight   D. Graham  
Paul Rensted, City Liaison  
Excused: W. Mitchell   M. Duskow   D. Williams  
Leave of Absence: P. Soin

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes are approved and adopted by common consent.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Patricia Omana, executive director of Centro de Ayuda, (Center for Help) presented details of how this organization renders significant assistance and also how it acts as a referral center. She had copies of their brochure which lists categories such as Adult Literacy, Housing and Financial Education, Free Legal and Medical Assistance, Strengthening Families, Health Workshops, Citizenship and Voting, After School and Summer Program, Referral and Assistance Program. The Center assists more than 6,500 individuals every year. Importantly, she described the individuals they help as being survivors who often have faced exploitation by the unscrupulous. Help can be gotten via telephone, fax and email contact. There was a Q/A segment towards the finish of the hour-long presentation and then all thanked Ms. Omana for her enlightening presentation, as well as enlightening Ms. Omana that HRC has a continuing need for Hispanic membership.

LIAISON’S REPORT: Liaison Rensted said that when he gets the invoice for costs to HRC re attendance at the Martin Luther King Breakfast he will process it. He informed Commissioners of a Fair Housing event to take place on Wednesday, December 8, 2010.

CHAIR’S REPORT – Chair Keller inquired as to whether commissioners had gotten the e-vite to City Hall Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, for a seasonal festive gathering. He has been told of a monthly workshop (to begin in January 2011) for city board commissioners – fourth Wednesday of each month – 6:00 p.m. He thanked Liaison Rensted for his cooperation in getting tickets for the Martin Luther King Breakfast.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER - Chair Keller introduced Commissioner Edith Knight who had served as a Commissioner approximately ten years ago. There were introductions around the table with Commissioners relating a brief bio of themselves as fellow Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS -- Status of the fair housing complaint of K.T. - Chair Keller related complete background and current status of this complaint for the benefit of the new

commissioner, stating that a date for the decision meeting of the Commission will be set in mid January with no postponements accepted.

Meeting with Capt. Della of Annapolis Police on in-service training program on hate crimes and incidents - Both Chair Keller and Vice Chair Mitchell noted that Capt. Della was well-informed re the subject of the meeting, that this was important to him, and he said the Commission will be invited to do a half hour in-service training segment with officers beginning in early 2011.

Report on statewide training conference for HRC Commissioners – Six members of the Commission attended, the largest group from any jurisdiction in the State. All agreed it was worthwhile and enjoyable.

Follow-up discussion of actions HRC can take re local school bullying of gay students – Commissioner Spencer distributed an article from 2010 *HealthDay*, titled “Gay Youths at Higher Risk for Criminal, School Sanctions”. Commissioner Schenck said she has arranged for a guest speaker to talk about this subject at the February HRC meeting. A need was seen for the various schools to come together in order to develop more ideas to counter this. The need for teacher training was brought up followed by discussion of HRC’s past accomplishments and the commitment by Superintendent Maxwell for teacher training in the area of cultural diversity. Commissioners Spencer and Schenck will lead a further discussion of this issue at the February meeting.

Report on meeting of the Human Relations Commission of Anne Arundel County – Commissioner Schenck described this as a short meeting. A video was made for local television – likely it will show on the County’s Channel 98. They are pursuing action by County Council to give legal status to the Commission, as it currently exists at the pleasure of the County Executive.

ADJOURNMENT: This took place at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted via email to Chair Keller – Jane Carr, Recording Secretary